COMMANDERS DIGEST

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JCS Chairman Assesses Vietnam Military Progress

Substantial progress has been made militarily during the past year in Vietnam, but in the words of Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, "The enemy is stubborn and hard days are still ahead."

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff gave the assessment following his eighth visit to Southeast Asia in the past four years.

In Gen. Wheeler's opinion, "The enemy has lost whatever chance he may have had for military victory in South Vietnam."

He pointed out that there is a unified effort in Vietnam—political, economic, and psychological, as well as military—and the ultimate triumph of freedom there is contingent upon success in each of these areas.

"We are clearly on a forward march," Gen. Wheeler said, noting, "Our allies are fighting with similar determination and valor."

He explained that in many areas "we are in control of the night," and once there is complete control, the goal of establishing security in Vietnam will be achieved.

As for logistics, Gen. Wheeler said: "No fighting force in military history has been supported more effectively than our men in Vietnam."

Referring to Operation Cedar Falls, which began Jan. 7, Gen. Wheeler said: "We have demonstrated that we can penetrate and clear out the once-inviolate, major Viet Cong strongholds."

Involuntary Retention Ruled Out For Reserve Officers By Sec. Def.

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara has announced that reserve officers may no longer be retained on active duty without their consent. However, they will be required to complete any definite term of active duty they have expressly agreed to serve or which they are obligated to serve.

Reserve officers now serving on active duty involuntarily who have previously requested release from active duty will be released as soon as possible, but under no circumstances will they be retained beyond June 30, 1967.

COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE—Gen. Theodore J. Conway, USA (right), Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Strike Command, arrives at Continental Air Command Hdqtrs, Robins AFB, Ga., with CAC Commander, Lt. Gen. Henry Viccellio. Gen. Conway and other staff officers discussed use of Air Force reservists in Strike operations.

DOD Pay Manual Replaces Separate Service Regulations

A single DOD Military Pay and Allowance Manual that can be easily understood by pay clerks has been published to replace the separate service regulations.

The one-manual concept was called for in December 1965, when Robert Anthony, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) advised his service counterparts that he believed the manual was feasible at that time.

Drafting and maintenance responsibility was assigned to the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center, Denver, Colo., under supervision of DOD's Military Pay and Allowance Committee.

Committee members spent hundreds of extra hours reviewing the manual before it was approved by Mr. Anthony and Deputy Secretary of Defense Cyrus R. Vance on Nov. 2, 1966.

Officials say the new manual will reduce costs by eliminating duplicate research, development, review and printing. The manual will also help in cross disbursing, simplify manual maintenance and ease future standardization of military pay systems.

Washington Memos

CHIEF OF STAFF, Japan Air Self Defense Force, General Hirokuni Muta, is visiting the U.S. as a guest of Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. John P. McConnell. During his stay, Gen. Muta will visit military installations, including Air Proving Ground Center and Tactical Air Warfare facilities at Eglin AFB, Fla., and Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards AFB, Calif. He is scheduled to depart the U.S. Jan. 26.

NAVY'S NEWEST ATTACK carrier, USS America, left Norfolk early this month for an eight and a half month tour with U.S. Sixth Fleet in Mediterranean. Commanded by Capt. D. D. Engen, America will serve as flagship for Rear Admiral Dick H. Guinn, Commander, Carrier Division Four.

SIX GENERALS AND two colonels, members of U.S. Army Reserve components, have been selected to attend a 12-day Senior Reserve Components Officers Course at Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pa. Eight National Guard officers will also participate in the course which begins Feb. 27.

AIR FORCE ADVISES that transient officer and enlisted billeting at Ramey AFB, P.R., is "extremely critical" between now and March 31 because of high-level conferences. To insure availability of quarters all proposed visits to Ramey AFB must be confirmed by message at least 72-hours in advance of departure date from home stations.

FT. BLISS, TEX. will receive 30 one-story men's barracks, three mess halls, three headquarters and classroom buildings, and supporting utilities. Construction is by Karam Construction Co. under $3.1 million fixed-price contract awarded by Engineer District, Albuquerque, N. Mex.

GUIDED MISSILE FRIGATE Biddle has been commissioned at Boston Navy Yard, Charleston, Mass. First commanding officer is Capt. Maylon T. Scott, USN. Ship is armed with Terrier-ASROC missiles, and is fourth to be named in honor of Capt. Nicholas Biddle, Continental Navy.

SELECTION BOARD WILL convene at Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington, D. C., Jan. 31, to recommend male officers on active duty for temporary promotion to captain. First lieutenants with date of rank of July 1, 1966, or earlier will be considered. All promotions made from this board will be effective no longer than six months after end of current national emergency or the date officer is released from active duty. All officers selected will be considered for "reselection" to captain by later board under permanent law.

A $1,025 AWARD has been given to CMSgt Murel E. Abernathy, USAF, for a suggestion to modify the hydraulic system of EC-135 aircraft engines. He is assigned to the 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Sq., Offutt AFB, Neb.

NEWEST MEMBER OF 2nd Signal Group, 1st Signal Brigade, Bien Hoa, RVN, is 44th Signal Battalion. Activated in mid-December, 44th replaced 232d Signal Company (support) which was deactivated while its members became nucleus for the new battalion.

THIRTY-SEVEN OFFICERS from 11 different countries are enrolled in Air University's Squadron Officer School class 67-A at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. Countries represented are: Afghanistan, Brazil, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Greece, Iran, the Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela and South Vietnam.

A TWENTY-MINUTE Armed Forces Information film, "Asia: The Crucial Arena" can be obtained from Service film libraries or Army audio-visual support centers. AFIF-161 points out the importance of, and the essentials for, an enduring peace in Asia.

ARMY GENERAL WILL assume responsibility for water resources, military construction and related real estate functions for Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Western Montana and parts of Wyoming and Alaska. Brig. Gen. Elmer P. Yates, Executive Director, Civil Works, Office of Army Chief of Engineers, will succeed Brig. Gen. Peter C. Hyzer, Division Engineer, North Pacific Division, CE, who retires in February.

NEW METAL ALLOY sheet material for experimental use on wing tip extensions of X15A-2 high altitude research airplane has been developed by Naval Air Systems Command under its Materials Research Program. Alloy will be exposed to around 2,400 degrees fahrenheit during flight missions. Material is about two times as strong as the best alloys now available.

TAU BETA PI, national engineering honor society, initiated Army Maj. Gen. Robert F. Seedlock into its Ohio Alpha Chapter. The CG of Ft. Belvoir, Va., was cited for his outstanding academic record and distinguished post-graduate engineering contributions.

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES Corp., has been selected to replace electronic data processing equipment at Air Force Technical Applications Center, Alexandria, Va. Selection was made by Electronic Systems Division, Air Force Systems Command. Equipment cost is estimated at $3.5 million.

CHIEF, U.S. ARMY NURSE Corps, Colonel Mildred I. Clark, paid a three-day visit to Okinawa. Colonel conducted interviews with nurses at Army's Camp Kue Medical Center.

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DOD Suggested As Manager Of Air Turbulence Project

The National Committee for Clear Air Turbulence (CAT) has recommended the Department of Defense be executive agent for a national CAT data collection project.

This was among several recommendations by the committee "to combat the little-understood phenomenon, a serious problem to civil and military aviation." It was noted that during 1963-65, costs for military aircraft lost and damaged were estimated at approximately $30 million.

Headed by Maj. Gen. Jack Catton, Director of Air Force Aerospace Programs, the committee also recommended that primary responsibility for different areas of the national program be assigned to DOD, Department of Commerce, NASA and FAA. Overall coordination would be with the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research.

DOD would be primarily responsible for measurements and observations, including remote detection.

Further recommendations of the committee included development of an in-flight advance warning detector that "will do more to solve the CAT operational problems than any other single thing," and attached nearly as much importance to development of a ground-based system.

The committee was formed at the request of Dr. Harold Brown when he was director of DOD Research and Engineering, prior to becoming Secretary of the Air Force.

Ship With Automated Propulsion Plant Expected to Join U.S. Fleet in 1968

Navy has announced that the first of eight auxiliary ships to have automated propulsion plants is expected to join the fleet in April 1968.

Five attack cargo and three combat store ships are being constructed. The last of these is expected to be delivered in September 1969.

Officials say the plant automation will reduce ship manning and improve operational reliability. The conning officer will have direct control of the main engines from the bridge.

A central engine room console will automatically monitor and control all engineering functions. This will reduce machinery space requirements from 12 to three men per watch.

The engineer at the console can determine the status of the plant at all times and take immediate action at the first indication of trouble. Mechanical controls will be provided so that the machinery plant can be controlled locally, if necessary.

NAVIGATION HOP—Maj. Gen. Norman J. Anderson, USMC (left), steps down from an A6A Introducer jet after a two-hour systems navigation and ordnance hop. Lt. Col. W. P. Brown, Commanding Officer, Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 533, MCAS, Cherry Point, N.C., is on hand to greet the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing Commander.

Army Will Revise Civilian Career Management System

Major Army commanders will have a more active leadership role in civilian employee career management under plans approved by Army Under-Secretary David E. McGiffert.

Certain civilian employees will be placed into a special career group under the plan.

Revision of Army's Civilian Career Management System will involve new concepts to improve operating procedures and a new policy framework to help refine career management fundamentals now in use.

Among the changes will be a major command requirement to assure active recruitment and assignment of junior-level employees; to afford opportunities for advancement, training and development; and to assure regular appraisal and career counseling.

The revised system also calls for setting up Career Screening Panels to develop promotion and placement lists and to identify Career Executive Group members in each key occupational field.

CEG members will be characterized by high competence and high degree of mobility. They will get special consideration in terms of challenging assignments, training opportunities and continuing tenure.

Added responsibilities are also slated for Functional Chiefs, including the forecasting of long-range manpower requirements. A Career Planning Board will be set up to advise the Functional Chief on career management policy.

Gen. John D. Ryan Named New PACAF Commander

President Johnson has named Gen. John D. Ryan to succeed Gen. Hunter Harris Jr. as Commander in Chief, Pacific Air Forces, with headquarters in Hawaii.

The change is effective Feb. 1 on retirement of Gen. Harris.

Gen. Ryan, who has been CinC of the Strategic Air Command, Offutt AFB, Neb., since Dec. 1, 1964, will be succeeded by Lt. Gen. Joseph J. Nazzaro, who has been nominated for a fourth star.

Gen. Nazzaro's position as SAC Vice Chief of Staff will be filled by Lt. Gen. Keith K. Compton, presently Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Operations, USAF.

Gen. Compton will be succeeded by Lt. Gen. Glen W. Martin, The Inspector General, USAF.

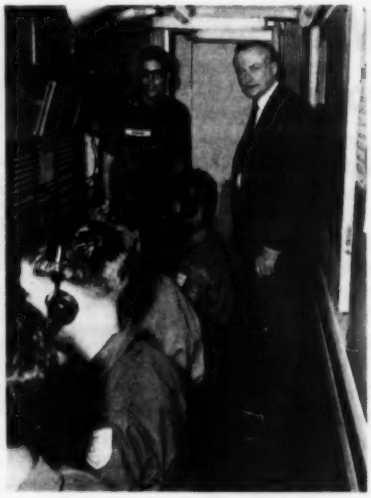
Fire Prevention Contest Military Winners Named

United States and overseas military installations have been named winners in the National Fire Protection Association's 40th annual fire prevention contest.

First place Grand Award for Army installations was won by Ft. Ord, Calif. Second place went to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D. C. Third place winner is Ft. Sam Houston, Tex.

Grand Award for Navy's Group 1, more than 3,500 personnel, was won by Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan. Group 2, 1,500-3,500, was taken by Naval Station Keflavik, Iceland. Group 3, less than 1,500, was won by Naval Research Laboratory, Chesapeake Bay Annex, Chesapeake Beach, Md.

Air Force's Group 1 winner, more than 750 daytime population, was captured by Eilson AFB, Alabama. The Group 2 winner, less than 750, was won by Johnson Family Housing Annex, Japan.



SWITCHBOARD INSPECTION—Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor (right) observes operators on the Saigon Long Distance Switchboard during a visit to the 2d Signal Group. The board is operated by members of the 593rd Signal Co., 69th Signal Bn.

Gen. H. M. Smith, USMC (Ret.) WWII FMF-Pac CG, Dies

Retired Marine General Holland M. (Howling Mad) Smith, 84, was buried Jan. 14 in San Diego.

The 41-year veteran commanded Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, during the Corps' island-hopping victories across the South Pacific in World War II.

He was in command of Task Force 56 during the assault and capture of Iwo Jima.

Gen. Smith was credited with much of the early development of ship-to-shore amphibious assault and has been referred to by many as the father of modern amphibious warfare.

He died Jan. 12 in the U.S. Naval Hospital, San Diego, after he was stricken by a heart attack while attending commissioning ceremonies for Marine Corps ROTC candidates at the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen, Tex., in mid-November.

Burial was at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

AF Surgeon General Gives Air Evacuation Statistics

Lt. Gen. Richard L. Bohannon, Air Force Surgeon General, said the medical rescue teamwork of the Army, Navy and Air Force in Vietnam is a "very efficient" operation.

After a first-hand look in Vietnam and other Southeast Asia bases, the general revealed that last year 16,895 patients, 5,940 of them battle casualties, were returned to the U. S. from the Pacific area by aeromedical evacuation aircraft of Military Airlift Command. The flights were in C-141 jet aircraft, landing at Andrews AFB, Md., and Travis AFB, Calif.

He noted: "A larger percentage of wounded personnel is surviving than in any previous conflict." Comparing the Vietnam wounded death rate with previous wars, Gen. Bohannon said, "during world War II, the death rate of wounded servicemen airlifted to aid stations was 4.5 per 100. During the Korean Conflict, it fell to 2 per 100. Today, the died of wounds rate is about 1.5 percent."

NATO Naval Units Hold Exercise Match Maker

Two firsts were recorded when NATO opened its third annual Match Maker exercise Jan. 19.

A Netherlands naval officer, Capt. Frans Visee, has for the first time command of the squadron of American, British, Canadian and Dutch ships, while two additional countries —Germany and Norway—have sent officers for duty with the squadron staff.

This year's Match Maker exercise is sponsored by U.S. Navy Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic, and is planned and conducted by Royal Navy Admiral Sir John Frewen, KCB, Commander-in-Chief Eastern Atlantic area.

Match Maker III is designed to gain experience in maritime techniques, including support and maintenance.

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